

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/723,155
Applicants : Sikora et al.
Filed : December 10, 2003
Art Unit : 3677
Examiner : N/A
Docket No. : TRG-321

Title : Releasable Snap Connection

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the references listed on attached form PTO-1449, which relate to the subject matter of the present invention, be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

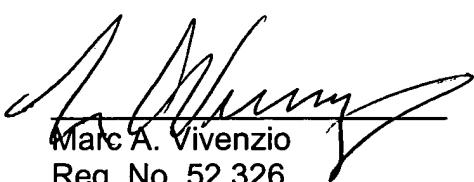
It is believed that no fee is due at the present time as this statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). However, should any fee be missing or insufficient, authorization is hereby given to charge said fee (or credit any overpayment) to deposit account number 12-2147.

Filed herewith are copies of the references listed on form PTO-1449. For each non English-language reference, the English-language version of the search reports from the counterpart international (PCT) and European applications which indicate the degree of relevance of said references as determined by the European Patent Office, is attached hereto in accordance with section 609(A)(3) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), second full paragraph, in fulfillment of the concise explanation of relevance requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 (a)(3)(i).

While this statement contains all of the relevant information presently known to the Applicants, it should not be interpreted as a representation that an exhaustive search has been conducted or that no other relevant information exists. Moreover, the Applicants invite the Examiner to make an independent evaluation of the cited references to determine their relevance to the subject matter of the present application.

Finally, the Applicants urge that their claims are patentably distinguishable over all disclosed relevant information or any combination thereof.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lorusso Loud & Kelly LLP



Marc A. Vivenzio
Reg. No. 52,326

Dated: February 22, 2005

15 Rye Street, Suite 312
Pease International Tradeport
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: (607) 427-0070
Fax: (607) 427-5530



Sikora et al.
Docket No. TRG-321

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and any paper or document referred to therein as being attached or enclosed is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 22, 2005.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Vivenzio".

Marc A. Vivenzio

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>			ATTY DOCKET NO. TRG-321	APPLICATION NO. 10/732,155			
			APPLICANT(S) Sikora et al.	FILING DATE 12/10/2003	GROUP ART UNIT 3677		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		4 972 287 A	05/22/1990	Ohkawa et al.			
		3 925 860 A	12/16/1975	Furuya			
		4 539 735 A	09/10/1985	Kasai			
		3 664 512 A	05/23/1972	Smith			
		5 613 818 A	03/25/1997	McCorkle et al.			
U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
		DE 35 17 127 A	11/13/1986	Germany			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
		DE 21 25 431 A	11/30/1972	Germany			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		AT 314 777 B	03/15/1980	Austria			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		EP 0 434 978 A	07/03/1991	EPO			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		International Search Report for related Application PCT/AT/2004/000038 dated 06/04/2004 (2pgs.)					
		European Search Report for related Application EP 03 02 5952 dated 12/05/2003 (2 pgs.)					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
<small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small>							